capped person and A.I.I.M.S. will be requested to allot the booth to the person to whom PCO is sanctioned.

STD Facilities in the Tribal and Rural Areas

3637. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to provide telephone and STD facilities in the tribal and rural areas in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these facilities would be provided to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The 8th Plan proposals of the Department provide for provision of telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas and also provision of STD facilities to all telephone exchanges by 1-4-97. Accordingly 24.3 lakh lines of Gross Switching Capacity of small and medium type is planned in Rural/Semi Urban areas during the plan period.

(b) The Question does not arise.

Improvement of Telephone Service during the Eighth Five Year Plan

3638. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to improve the telephone situation in the country during the eighth five year plan particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): To improve the telephone situation in the country including Uttar Pradesh. The 8th Plan of the department of telecommunication envisages:

— Provide telephone practically on demand in rural and tribal areas & waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years in other areas.

— Provide phone facility in all Gram Panchayats by 1-4-1995. Some more villages to have LDPTs by 1-4-1997.

— Public Call Offices for every 100 households in urban areas.

— Highway telephones on national highways at 10 Km. distance.

— Replacement of life expired and worn out equipment by electronic equipment.

— Practically all new equipment proposed for induction during the 8th plan period to be of digital type.

— Computerisation of Telecommunication services such as directory enquiry, billing, manual trunk services etc.

— Replacement of all strowger MAX III exchanges by electronic exchanges.

— Provision of Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility to all exchanges.

— To meet the above objectives it is proposed to add 93 lakh lines of net switching capacity in the country Including around 5.30 lakh lines in U.P. during 92-97. This is subject to availability of resources and infrastructure.

Post Offices likely to be opened in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh

3639. MAULANA OBAIDULIAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post offices likely to be opened in District Almora (U.P.) in the current financial year;

(b) what are the names of places where these post offices are likely to be opened and

(c) whether Government would consider the proposal to open one sub-post office at Basot which will cater to the needs of a large number of residents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) During Annual Plan 1993-94, a target for opening of 93

extra departmental branch post offices has been fixed for Uttar Pradesh. Justified proposals received from all districts are taken into consideration and sanctioned to the extent of the target laid down for the Circle. There are no separate targets, district-wise.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the names of places where the post offices are likely to be opened. They are opened subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and within the targets allotted.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Morse Code Technology in the sphere of Telecommunications

3640. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Morse Code which has been finally declared obsolete in U.S.A.; as its use is considered no longer practical on a large scale because "the commercial arena has so many modes of communications now";

(b) whether Government have at any stage considered the continued use of Morse Code in the context of the state-of-art technology in telecommunications sphere introduced by it; and

(c) if so, what is its future in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Morse working is being replaced by micro-processor based electronic gadgets called Electronic-Key-Board Terminals and Concentrators.

Beeps System introduced by the M.T.N.L.

3641. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news report which appeard in Times of India on 10th July, 1993 saying that the beeps system introduced by the M.T.N.L. is seriously disrupting the mail is correct;

(b) if so, what are the details of the phenomenon and the reasons therefor;

(c) what corrective measures are being taken to tackle this problem;

(d) whether any success has been achieved or expected to be achieved through these corrective devices;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) if not, what alternatives are being worked out; and

(g) what are the reasons that the MTNL's technical experts could not visualise the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the "Beep" speech circuit gets disconnected for a short-while resulting in disconnection/mutilation of data transmission.

(c) Software modification in all E-10B type Electronic Exchanges where the "Beeps" system has been introduced, are being made.

(d) and (e) The modifications made are being tested and closely scrutinized before their implementation to avoid any other problem. A new category is being provided for such E-Mail subscribers so that no "Beeps" will be given to such subscribers to avoid any loss of data transmission on these lines.

(f) Not considered in view of 'd' above.

(g) There are lot of requests by the subscribers of MTNL after the introduction of 5 minutes metering to give an indication before 5 minutes are over. That is why the "Beep" system was introduced by carrying out software update immediately. The implications of the "Beep" tone, particularly on the computer terminals, not adequately provided with standard protocol came to be known later on.